

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 13, 2007

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday March 13, 2007 at 8:00am in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Advisory Council Members present were: Chairman Nathan Miller, Vice Chairman John Walker, Dave Reagan, John Withers, Jimmy Kesterson, Mike Kyger and Garry Smith. Also present: Commissioner Ruth Shedd, Director Mark Kirby, Assistant Director Tim Batta, TEMA Technician Martin Webb and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Reagan asked that one correction be made on the Communications Committee in the first sentence *has* should be changed to *had*. Chairman Nathan Miller asked that under New Business *President* be changed to *Chairman*.

- Commissioner Ruth Shedd moved to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2007 meeting, second by Dave Reagan; motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

TEMA Response Calls

Director Kirby noted that Carroll Consolidated School System has reimbursed TEMA for HAZMAT services rendered. Director Kirby added that TEMA has subsequently reimbursed Frankfort Fire and Lafayette Fire. He noted that he is concerned about future incidents and how other entities should be billed for services. Director Kirby stated that he would like to set a standard for future billing services. He mentioned that mutual aid agreements cover cost recuperation for responding to calls, but does not set a standard on which entities should be billed for services. He added that his main concern is other district emergency personnel responding to incidents and not recuperating cost. TEMA will investigate other entities and review their policies.

Ross Camp Exercise

Director Kirby mentioned that the exercise at Ross Camp was very successful with 300 participants. He added that TEMA Technician Martin Webb has completed an after action review and will forward a copy to the advisory council.

Grants

Director Kirby noted that 2005 grants are still open and TEMA has received an extension to expend monies received until April 15, 2007. He added that he has not received any information on 2006 grants, but noted these funds are 100% earmarked for TEMA to include a mobile operations truck, TEMA exercises and funding for a district coordinator.

Staffing

Director Kirby noted that county council has approved funding for TEMA Technician Martin Webb's position. He mentioned that Martin Webb is training to be a NIMS instructor and added that this will be a great benefit for TEMA and Tippecanoe County.

Sirens

Director Kirby reported that Severe Weather Week Testing was successful. Two sirens failed and the staff is in the process of repairing the sirens. He added that the Storm Spotter class was also successful. Assistant Director Batta has completed invoicing each siren in Tippecanoe County and plans are in place to move forward with the consultants to update the system.

Director Kirby stated that the Reverse 911 system is moving slowing. The Sheriff's Department is spearheading the project funded by Homeland Security grant money; Director Kirby does not foresee this project being implemented anytime soon.

TEMA has been asked to assist in implementing the Wireless Emergency Notification System. This is a statewide initiative that warns individuals via cell phone of any emergency in the area. The system is controlled at the local level and taxpayers are eligible for this service at their own expense. Director Kirby noted that a start date has not yet been determined for this system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee

Chairman Dave Reagan noted that the communications committee had not met recently. He added that the committee is interested in the progress of siren relocation on personal property. Assistant Director Tim Batta noted that these sirens have not been moved due to the high cost involved.

Budget

Director Kirby noted that the 2007 budget did not include new sirens. New sirens cost approximately \$18,000-\$20,000 with battery backup and repairs on sirens each year are around \$12,000. It was discussed at previous meetings the possibility of establishing a siren fee that could be included in the cost of building permits. Commissioner Shedd will look into siren funding and report to the board at the next meeting.

HAZMAT

Assistant Director Batta noted that one fuel spill occurred and two white powder incidents in the last month. Director Kirby added that one white powder incident leaked to the media unintentionally. He stated that the post office was concerned about future incidents and public reaction. Director Kirby will work cooperatively with the post office to establish a plan of action for future incidents.

Director Kirby mentioned that the snow emergency went very well thanks to Sheriff Brown. Key members met prior to the emergency to discuss plans before the storm. The outcome was a well coordinated plan with a common message for residents of Tippecanoe County. Sheriff Brown

will hold a future meeting to discuss changes that should be made before the next snow emergency.

New Business

It was suggested that the advisory council meet before budgets are due to discuss any items of interest. Commissioner Shedd suggested that budgets be sent electronically and a meeting scheduled thereafter.

Chairman Nathan Miller provided information regarding the responsibility of TEMA and the advisory board. He would like to establish committees to focus on the responsibilities and ensure items are addressed on a consistent basis.

Chairman Miller suggested TEMA establish a Mutual Aid Agreement for Tippecanoe County. Director Kirby discussed the practicality of a local mutual aid agreement and the process of updating the agreement. He added that the statewide agreement covers Tippecanoe County and most entities surrounding the county. Chairman Miller proposed a brief summary be established of the statewide agreement and the affect it has on our county with the entities it encompasses. Chairman Miller anticipates the county and district sharing a common understanding of how the agreement works.

The meeting was adjourned.